

A

**Letter from Pryn's Ghost**

T O A

**Member of Parliament,**

*Heartily Religious, and therefore Zealous  
for the Occasional Bill, to prevent the Sin  
against God, in Receiving the Sacrament  
only for an Office; which is a Sin, and  
a Damnable Abuse of that Holy Ordinance.*

S I R,

**H**AVING been in my Life-time a Parlia-  
ment-man, so much noted for my  
Experience in Parliament Affairs,  
Parliament Right, Parliament Rolls, and  
for my Solitude still in the Cause of Reli-  
gion, I cannot but be concern'd about the  
Bill which you was a chief Man to promote in  
the House last Session, entituled, *An Act to pre-  
vent Occasional Conformity*; and therefore I warn  
you from above, to consider this Fault in the  
Bill, that when there was so much Care taken  
(or pretended to be taken) to prevent the Re-

A

ceiving

49  
ceiving the Sacrament only for an Office (which is the *Occasional Conformity* to be prevented) in the *Dissenter*, there was none taken at all to prevent the Sin in the *Conformist*. You know too well that there are many, and many, who go ordinarily to Church, that have Places, or Offices, by Land or Sea, and are most Loose, Prophane, Ungodly, Persons, without Religion; yet being made Officers, or got Places, they come (bringing some Witnesses like themselves with them) and take the Holy Sacrament, only to this End, the qualifying themselves for their Office, or Places, when else they would never come at all; and so Receiving *Unworthily*, they *Eat and Drink their Damnation*, and no Regard to prevent it in such, is taken by this Bill.

To receive the Sacrament to any End than that for which Christ hath instituted it, is a certain Sin and Violation of it; and to receive the same only to qualify a Man for his Place or Office, is doing so. Now to prevent this Sin is undoubtedly a very good Thing, a Holy Work, and not to be given off, but prosecuted by our *Bishops* especially in the *Lord's House*; and all such Noblemen and Gentlemen as you, who are *Churchmen*, not out of *Form*, but *Conscience*, and shew it in the Liturgical Service you pay to God daily  
in



( 3 )  
in your Families. And can you endure, with Allowance, the Sin and Damnation of so many to be still unprevented, when such a Bill hath given the Occasion to prevent it? If you do, Sir, expect to be haunted by the Sting of Conscience for your Neglect, if not by me, seeing you have hitherto carried it so in this Bill, as if God might be *Mocked*, and the doing this were no Sin in the *Conformist*, so long as he goes not to *Meetings*, which you render so Penal and Abominable in the *Dissenter*.

Believe it, Sir, so long as any Statute is in Force, that makes the Receiving the Sacrament to be a Qualification for Civil and Military Offices, the *Conformist*, as well as *Nonconformist*, is in Danger of Receiving it only for an Office; and there is no Way in the World to prevent the Hypocrisie of the *one*, and the Profaneness of the *other*, that are *both* Ungodly, but by taking off that Statute or Statutes from requiring this for the future, tho' they may in other Respects remain unrepealed. Take from me this Draught.

*A Bill to prevent the Sin of Taking the Sacrament, only for an Office, in all Persons henceforward, both Conformist and Nonconformist.*

**W**Hereas there is a Statute, made in the Twenty-fifth of *Charles II.* entituled,

*An*

434 An Act to prevent Dangers that may arise from Popish Recusants; which requires, that every Man who enjoys any Office, Civil or Military, by Sea, or by Land, shall do Two Things; that is, renounce Transubstantiation, and take the Sacrament according to the Usage of the Church of *England*; whereby some Persons are induced to take it that are such as go to Meetings, and think it unlawful; and others, who go to Church, are openly Profane and Scandalous Persons, and yet come and require it at the Hands of the Minister, against the Discipline of Holy Church, and both take it to another End than that for which it was instituted, and so sin, and violate that Holy Ordinance: Be it enacted, that no Man from henceforward, who does declare himself a Protestant, in the Renouncing Transubstantiation, according to that Statute, (seeing more for excluding every Papist is but needless) shall be farther obliged to any Sacramental Test for any Temporal Office, the aforesaid Statute, or any other, to the contrary notwithstanding.



See a Book, call'd, *Moderation Pursued*, sold by the same Person that sells this.

---

London: Printed, and Sold by B. Bragg, in Ave-Mary-Lane, near Ludgate-street, 1704.

